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Paul Band residents hurt in wildfire

RESERVES A number of Paul Band residents suffered minor injuries trying to fight fires that threatened homes on the reserve west of Edmonton yesterday.

Parkland County and Wabamun fire departments, with the help of Stony Plain and Spruce Grove RCMP, battled the numerous wildfires from the ground and air using water bombers and helicopters.

The firefighting proved difficult due to windy conditions. RCMP were advising the public not to enter the area for safety reasons and residents were asked to muster in the Paul Band school gymnasium.

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Entertainment pg 19

Oceans alive in new film

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Thousands of pot smokers and activists gathered at the legislature yesterday to celebrate 4-20 and raise awareness about marijuana.

High times at Leg

Pot activists light up for annual 4-20 celebrations

ANDREAS MORSE
andreas.morse@metronews.ca

Ice cream and hot dog sales must have been through the roof at the legislature grounds yesterday afternoon, thanks to Edmonton's annual 4-20 celebrations.

For over two decades, like-minded pot smokers have gathered in the park below the provincial building to enjoy a smoke and raise awareness about a drug that most people at the event consider to be harmless.

"An Angus Reid poll said the majority of Canadians are in favour of legalization

and decriminalization (of marijuana) but the government won't put it on a ballot," said Todd, a member of Edmonton 420 who didn't want his last name used.

"It's safer than liquor and even normal tap water has killed more people than marijuana and yet marijuana has more restrictions."

Thousands of people, mostly young high school and college-aged kids, sat in small circles and passed around joints, pipes and bongs, filling the air around the legislature with the scent of weed.

Two provincial sheriffs kept their eyes on the peaceful gathering; one of

"Tap water has killed more people than marijuana and yet marijuana has more restrictions."

Todd, activist

them said they didn't anticipate prosecuting anyone, unless they saw someone consuming alcohol.

"There's no real harassment," Todd said. "You get 2,000 people together and start arresting them, what's going to happen?"

If someone were to be prosecuted for smoking marijuana, Todd suggested

keeping quiet.

"Don't plead guilty, keep your mouth shut and there's not a whole lot they can do," he said.

Ryjin Vander Hoek took in the celebrations yesterday and helped out in the hot-dog tent.

"It really instills a lot of confidence in members of the community because they see that we're able to congregate and it doesn't get crazy, it doesn't get violent, and most importantly, law enforcement leaves us alone," Vander Hoek said.

"It creates a strong impact."

The 4-20 celebrations started at about noon and ran into the evening.

Avatar director slams oilsands

ENVIRONMENT Avatar director-turned-activist James Cameron says Alberta's tar sands are a "black eye" to his native country's image as an environmental leader.

The Canadian-born filmmaker says he wants to learn more about the controversial Athabasca Oil Sands Project after being contacted by indigenous groups who are concerned by its impact.

He questioned why Canada is spending billions on extracting crude oil instead of pursuing sustainable options.

"I think it's bad, I think it's the wrong solution for us to be doing greater and greater environmental damage pursuing a dead-end paradigm, which is fossil fuels, instead of spending those billions ... on building wind turbines," Cameron said yesterday from his home in Los Angeles.

"Those same areas are a great wind belt and we could be generating ... wind energy out of the same place. Why aren't we doing that?"

Cameron, who was born in Kapuskasing, Ont., said he hopes to learn more about the issue this week-end when he meets with the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York.



James Cameron

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local



Lewis rocks the Starlite Room

Actress-turned-musician Juliette Lewis and her band the New Roman-tiques are coming to the Starlite Room July 30. After seven years, two full-length albums and countless high profile tours and festival gigs, Lewis is ready to unveil her new album Terra Incognita. Tickets for the show are \$25 and go on sale April 23.

METRO EDMONTON



News in brief

ARTS St. Albert's Arden Theatre has been named one of the feature celebration sites for the 2010 Alberta Arts Days celebrations. Each site will partner with other community organizations to present family-friendly activities over Arts Days weekend, which will be held Sept. 17-19.

METRO EDMONTON

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Video Evolving Canadian palates are putting a dent in beer's market share at metronews.ca/canada
Video With an assist from Canada, Kandahar Press Club nurtures growing Afghan media at metronews.ca/canada

Alta. police put brakes on speeding

ANDREAS MORSE
andreas.morse@metronews.ca

Speed kills.

That's the message that Alberta law enforcement agencies were trying to get across yesterday as they kicked off an awareness campaign demonstrating the consequences of speeding.

RCMP, Alberta Sheriffs,

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, as well as Edmonton and Calgary police services were on hand to deliver the message that sticking to the speed limit saves lives.

"I believe that the excellent work of our enforcement partners is having an impact," said Shaun Hammond, Alberta Transportation assistant deputy minister.

"Changing driver attitudes and behaviour is what this is all about. Our goal is to save lives and reduce injuries and I think we're on the right track."

Law enforcement agencies were out in full force throughout Alberta earlier this month to remind drivers to slow down and obey posted speed limits.

Over three days they issued 4,281 speeding viola-

tions and more than 1,200 tickets for various other traffic safety violations.

"This information session is important because it lets people know that we're out there watching," said Edmonton Police Service acting Staff Sgt. Barry Maron.

"Anytime you can give out 4,000 speeding tickets in three days, that says something. We need to

slow down."

Police say one in four collisions involves speeding and motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death and injury among young Albertans.

This initiative is part of Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan that focuses on education, enforcement, communications, engineering, community engagement and legislation.

Globalization changing the face of public health: U of A dean

MIRIAM ITZECK
for Metro Edmonton

EDUCATION Issues like globalization and a general aging of the population asks for graduates in the public health-care sector to be well-prepared for working in a more interconnected way.

According to Dr. Sylvie Stachenko, the dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, globalization is a key driver for public health in this century.

"What we see is that health is becoming a human rights issues, a security issue," Stachenko said during a presentation at the Coronation Plaza building yesterday.

"Public health is encompassing a broader space moving beyond the local to the global and instruments of international law are becoming the way forward as we have to deal

with other health issues of the global nature."

International trade and the centralization of the population in cities bring issues like a sedentary lifestyle and obesity and health care inequities between the countries continue to exist, Stachenko said. She added new skills are needed to address these developments.

"We need to start applying a broader global as well as local mindset in terms of framing the public health issues. We need more of this cross-boundary learning, go into fields of trade, and economics and law, in areas that we were not delving very much in the past."

Students will receive education in a variety of these sectors, as the School of Public Health will work with Canadian and international partners to promote a more complex learning through student exchange and internships.



Dr. Sylvie Stachenko gave a talk about preparing graduates for careers in public health at the Coronation Plaza yesterday.

Man gets 5 years for attempting to have wife killed

SENTENCING An Edmonton man who admitted he hired an undercover police officer posing as a hit man to kill his estranged wife has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Manuel Augusto Goncalves pleaded guilty earlier this year to counselling an officer to commit murder.

Court heard Goncalves was searching for someone to kill his wife when police heard about his plan.

The 52-year-old agreed to pay an undercover officer a total of \$5,000 to kill Heather Goncalves, his wife of 13 years. The 44-year-old woman says she doesn't believe Goncalves is remorseful.

Goncalves says she is satisfied with the sentence, but adds it doesn't give her and her two sons enough time to rebuild their lives.

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Canada, U.S. square off in cyber war games

Six U.S. and Canadian service academies are competing to see which can best defend a computer network from a cyber attack. The 10th annual Cyber Defence Exercise began yesterday and runs through Friday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

3

Canada



Hold the salt, say health authorities

Canadian health authorities are exploring ways to reduce salt intake. Health Canada has a sodium working group comprising government and industry representatives that has been meeting on the issue. Last fall the group agreed to an interim goal to reduce the levels of sodium in the Canadian diet to 2,300 mg per person per day by 2016, based on reducing sodium consumption by five per cent each year. It is estimated Canadians currently ingest 3,400 mg of salt a day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds ignore costs of policing: Association

LAW AND ORDER The federal government ignores the fact that its law-and-order agenda means higher costs for local cops, the country's largest police association said yesterday.

Charles Momy, president of the 41,000-member Canadian Police Association, said municipal police are being saddled with national issues on top of day-to-day crime, but get no extra cash. Cyber crime — including child pornography, financial fraud and cyber-bullying — along with organized crime, emergency preparedness and national security are devouring police budgets, he said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Don't abandon wetlands: Group

OILSANDS Conservation groups say Alberta is backing away from a proposal to force energy companies to restore environmentally important wetlands ruined by oilsands and mining projects.

The Sierra Club of Canada says a leaked draft of the government's plan doesn't include a "no-net-loss" approach recommended by the Alberta Water Council.

Instead, the August 2009 Alberta Environment draft calls for protecting "exceptional" wetlands, but notes that the vast majority in the oilsands region have a much lower value.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mixed-race unions on rise

StatsCan reveals big jump over 2001 numbers

A new study says the number of mixed-race couples has risen considerably in Canada.

Numbers gleaned from the last census indicate there were 289,400 mixed unions in 2006, 33.1 per cent more than in 2001.

"As Canada's population becomes increasingly diverse, there are more opportunities for people to marry or form relationships with someone from a different ethno-cultural background," Statistics Canada said in a release yesterday.

"Mixed unions, including both married and com-

mon-law couples, reflect one aspect of the diversity of families.

"They vary according to characteristics such as generational status of the spouses or partners, their birthplace and their particular visible-minority group."

About 247,600 of the mixed-race couples were comprised of one member of a visible-minority group and someone who was not a visible minority, the agency said — 3.3 per cent of all couples.

The remaining 41,800 mixed unions consisted of couples belonging to dif-

Japanese

• Overall, Japanese had the highest proportion marrying or forming partnerships outside of their visible-minority group. About 75 per cent of the 29,700 couples in which at least one person was Japanese involved a pairing with a non-Japanese person. They were followed by Latin Americans and blacks.

ferent visible minorities — accounting for 0.6 per cent of all couples.

It says the proportion of mixed unions rose with

the length of time spent in Canada, that they tended to be made up of younger couples, and that they're an urban phenomenon.

"Among first-generation visible minority Canadians (those born outside of Canada), 12 per cent were in mixed-union couples," said the agency.

"For second-generation Canadians who were members of a visible minority group the proportion in a mixed union was 51 per cent."

"It reached 69 per cent for third-generation visible-minority Canadians."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Info agency won't meet key target

HEALTH The \$1.6-billion agency responsible for giving every Canadian an electronic health record acknowledges it won't meet a key target.

Canada Health Infoway Inc. had said for years that half the population would have an electronic health record by the end of 2010, and every Canadian would have one by 2016.

But Infoway acknowledged in an audit report from Auditor General Sheila General yesterday that the 50 per cent goal won't be reached until sometime in the first half of next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Congo Survivor's story



Honorine Kabuo, left, bids farewell to Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean following her visit to Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday. Kabuo was attacked by rebels in 2001 while walking through the bush with her husband and two-year-old son. Both her husband and son were killed after she was raped by four men. She was slashed in the neck and had her pregnant stomach cut open but lived to tell of her now eight-year-old daughter she named Victory for her survival. Kabuo and her daughter both live with HIV contracted from rebels.

Liquor before beer in new booze survey

SALES The latest national figures suggest Canadian palates — at least when it comes to alcohol — are becoming somewhat more sophisticated.

Beer and liquor stores and agencies sold \$19.4 billion worth of alcoholic beverages during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, three per cent more than in the previous year.

Statistics Canada attributes the dollar growth to an increase in sales of imported spirits and beer compared with domestic products, and a one per cent average increase in the cost of alcoholic beverages.

In litres of absolute alcohol — pure alcohol, free of water — the agency says the volume of sales of alcoholic beverages increased 1.6 per cent to 226.4 million litres. But while beer remained by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in terms of both volume and dollar value, StatsCan says its market share declined. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Robin Hood tax? NGOs want to take from banks and give to poor.

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Somalia's government yesterday backed off an order to close down radio stations in the capital that had obeyed an Islamist militia's order to stop playing music. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Civil rights pioneer dies at 98

Dorothy Height, who as longtime president of the National Council of Negro Women was the leading female voice of the 1960s civil rights movement in the United States, died yesterday. She was 98. Height, who continued actively speaking out into her 90s, had been at Howard University Hospital in Washington for some time. Height was on the platform at the Lincoln Memorial, sitting only a few feet from Martin Luther King when he gave his famous "I have a dream" speech at the civil rights march on Washington in 1963. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Worst yet to come?

Second Icelandic volcano may be primed for eruption

For all the worldwide chaos that Iceland's volcano has already created, it may just be the opening act.

Scientists fear tremors at the Eyjafjallajökull volcano could trigger an even more dangerous eruption at the nearby Katla volcano — creating a worst-case scenario for the airline industry and travellers around the globe.

A Katla eruption would be 10 times stronger and shoot higher and larger plumes of ash into the air than its smaller neighbour, which has already brought European air travel to a standstill for five days and promises severe travel delays for days more.

The two volcanos are side by side in southern Iceland, about 20 kilometres apart

Heathrow opens

London's Heathrow Airport reopened yesterday as air traffic across Europe lurched back to life.

and thought to be connected by a network of magma channels.

Katla, however, is buried under ice 500 metres thick — the massive Myrdalsjökull glacier, one of Iceland's largest. That means it has more than twice the amount of ice that the current eruption has burned through — threatening a new and possibly longer aviation standstill across Europe.

Páll Einarsson, professor of geophysics at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the University of Iceland, said one volcanic eruption sometimes causes a nearby volcano to explode, and Katla and Eyjafjallajökull have been active in tandem in the past. In fact, the last three times that Eyjafjallajökull erupted, Katla did as well. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



What's the fallout if Iceland's volcano spews ash for months?

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Philippines Dismay over decision



Catherine Nunez breaks into tears after a press conference yesterday in Manila. Nunez, together with other relatives of slain journalists, expressed dismay over the justice secretary's decision to clear two members of the Ampatuan clan of charges they conspired in the massacre of 57 people.

News in brief

GAZA Hamas rulers yesterday burned nearly two million pills of a painkiller many Gazans take recreationally because they say it relaxes them and provides temporary relief from the territory's hardships. Hamas Health Minister Basim Naim said authorities burned some 1.7-million pills of a drug called Tramadol that had been seized from smugglers who sneak it through tunnels under the Egyptian border.

AUSTRALIA A powerful 5.0-magnitude earthquake struck Australia's western gold-mining region yesterday, collapsing roofs and prompting evacuations. Two people were treated for injuries, including a teenage girl who was hit by falling rubble, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sailors to recreate storied journey

PACIFIC Four adventurers set sail in an open boat from Tonga in a bid to re-enact the epic 7,040-kilometre survival voyage of Captain William Bligh of HMS Bounty fame when he was cast adrift by mutineers in 1789.

Bligh, widely acknowledged as an expert seaman, sailed a 14-metre open long-boat with 18 crew from near Tonga to West Timor in 48 days, surviving partly by catching fish and seabirds and drinking rain water. The feat — achieved without charts or compass — has been portrayed in novels, poems and in several films starring Hollywood

luminaries such as Clark Gable, Marlon Brando, Charles Laughton and Anthony Hopkins.

The new expedition is sailing in a seven-metre open deck boat, the Talisker Bounty, which sports two small sails. The team expects to take seven weeks to cover the distance.

Led by Australian Don McIntyre, the expedition includes experienced Antarctic sailor David Bryce from Australia, Hong Kong businessman David Wilkinson and 18-year-old Briton Christopher Wilde.

McIntyre said the group is trying to get close to what Bligh encountered by taking with them only what he

221

Years since the journey of William Bligh. On April 28, the crew expects to be at the location of the storied mutiny to mark its anniversary before striking out on their journey across the South Pacific to Timor.

had on board in 1789.

This included 16 pounds of pork, six quarts of rum, six bottles of wine and 28 gallons of water. Like Bligh, the crew has no modern navigational equipment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top U.S. court strikes down law banning animal cruelty videos

WASHINGTON The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a law yesterday aimed at banning videos that show graphic violence against animals, saying it violates the right to free speech. The justices, voting 8-1, threw out the criminal conviction of Robert Stevens, who was sentenced to three years in prison for videos he made about pit bull fights.

The law was enacted in 1999 to limit Internet sales of so-called crush videos, which appeal to a certain sexual fetish by showing women crushing to death small animals with their

bare feet or high-heeled shoes.

The videos virtually disappeared once the measure became law, the government argued.

But Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, said the law goes too far, suggesting that a measure limited to crush videos might be valid. Animal cruelty and dog fighting already are illegal throughout the United States.

Roberts said the law could be read to allow the prosecution of the producers of films about hunting.

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Comment

Obscured by clouds

TheWestView

Paul
Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Can you say Eyjafjallajökull? Never mind. It's hard enough just spelling it.

The aforementioned Icelandic tongue tickler doesn't have the same electrifying verbal impact as Krakatoa or Vesuvius, both of which sound appropriately volcanic.

Krakatoa Katie, she weren't no lady, but Eyjafjallajökull has wreaked global havoc just the same, thanks to tonnes of volcanic ash it has unleashed into the atmosphere, shutting down flights over Europe. Turns out jet engines and grit don't go together.

In the last week, the cost

of Eyjafjallajökull's eruption has been more than 9-11. The airline industry alone is losing \$200 million per day, never mind tourism, trade, financials and all of the industries that rely on intercontinental air travel to keep them going.

And as I write, that damn volcano is belching new clouds of ash into the atmosphere, releasing more carbon than the annual output of a mid-size European country like Sweden or Poland.

Remember when air travel was a glamorous adventure? Now, thanks to Eyjafjallajökull and al-Qaida, it's a black comedy set entirely in the "terminal," a word with chilling implications: If the volcano keeps going, as volcanoes do, it could shut down air travel for years.

And what would that mean if we couldn't fly any more?

Civilization lapses back into the slow lane. Even the fastest train travels at less than half the speed of a commercial jet into a headwind.

It's difficult to imagine. No more strawberries from South America in January. We'd have to gnaw on roots from the cellar during those long winter months. Eat local ... or starve.

Distances become meaningful again as we are forced to relax into road trips and slow boats to everywhere. Exotic locales become exotic again, and that includes Hawaii, Puerto Vallarta and Pismo Beach. We are forced, by necessity, to rediscover our own neighbourhoods and communities. All

roads lead through Winnipeg, the Chicago of the North.

The recovery of the economy, which depends on the speed of sound for its bounce, lapses into a slow turnaround, and multinationals lose their prefixes. Web conferences turn convention centres and hotels into mausoleums. We plow them up into urban gardens and grow parsnips to supplement our meagre meals.

How likely is this nightmare scenario? Not very. (Which is almost too bad: It has a dreamy dimension that's hard to deny.) At some point, the human enterprise will rise to the challenge and build a volcano-proof jet. But the lesson is clear: Don't discount Mother Nature just yet. She's full of hard-to-spell surprises.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

"If the volcano keeps going, as volcanoes do, it could shut down air travel for years."

MR. PRIME MINISTER, CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUR OBSESSION WITH SECRECY?



Worth mentioning

Bang goes the theory for online brain games

People playing computer games to train their brains might as well be playing Super Mario, new research suggests.

In a six-week study, experts found people who played online games designed to improve their cognitive skills didn't get any smarter.

Researchers recruited participants from viewers of the BBC's science show Bang Goes The Theory. More than 8,600 people aged 18 to 60 were asked to play online brain games designed by the researchers to improve their memory, reasoning and other skills for at least 10 minutes per day, three times per week.

They were compared to more than 2,700 people who didn't play any brain games, but spent a similar amount of time surfing the Internet and answering

general knowledge questions. All participants were given a sort of IQ test before and after the experiment.

Researchers said the people who did the brain training didn't do any better on the test after six weeks than people who had simply been on the Internet.

The study was paid for by the BBC and published online yesterday by the journal Nature.

"If you're (playing these games) because they're fun, that's absolutely fine," said Adrian Owen, assistant director of the Cognition and Brain Sciences unit at Britain's Medical Research Council, the study's lead author. "But if you're expecting (these games) to improve your IQ, our data suggests this isn't the case," he said during a press briefing yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word on the street: What are you doing to mark Earth Day tomorrow?

Kristen
Kapty

Edmonton

A: I am going to take public transportation and maybe go outside if it's nice. I think it's important to try to save fuel on Earth Day.

Rose
Lorentzen

Edmonton

A: Now that I am reminded, I will probably go for a walk and enjoy the nice weather. The environment is so important for our own health. If we are not in the environment then we are not going to be taking care of the environment.

Brian
Hoang

Ottawa

A: Now that I know about it, I'll probably plant a tree.

Christal
Gardiola

Toronto

A: I'll stop bringing plastic water bottles everywhere, and I'll unplug my computer when I go to sleep because I usually never do that.

Ernie
Stuart

Halifax

A: I plan on going out and doing the basic things like not using power. I'm going to clean my house and do all my recycling that day.

Dayna
Mahannah

Vancouver

A: I'll cycle to work. I try to recycle and not litter throughout the year.



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number - street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Harley-Davidson Inc. said yesterday its first-quarter profit fell 72 per cent as sales of its high-end motorcycles remained sluggish. Harley-Davidson CEO Keith Wandell said the uncertain economy is likely to make business conditions challenging throughout the year. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Harley-Davidson takes Q1 hit

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Argentina Pulp mill protest



A protestor wearing a shirt that reads in Spanish "No to the pulp mill," gathers with others against Uruguay's Finnish-built Botnia pulp mill as they listen to the decision by the International Court of Justice in Gualaquaychu, Argentina, yesterday. The International Court of Justice ruled Uruguay did not breach its obligation to protect the environment by building a pulp mill on its side of a river that forms its border with Argentina.

Business in brief

LOBSTER Thousands of pounds of Canadian lobster that couldn't be flown to Europe because of grounded flights will be sent to the United States and Asia. Canada's largest shellfish exporter,

Clearwater Seafoods, says its revenues won't be pinched too much by the delays because of it's a slow season for lobsters.

APPLE Blockbuster iPhone sales helped Apple Inc. blow

past Wall Street's expectations with a 90 per cent leap in net income for the most recent quarter. Shares skyrocketed in extended trading yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Loonie's big leap

BoC spurs largest jump in months

The loonie posted its biggest single-day gain in nine months yesterday following a bullish economic forecast from Canada's central bank.

The Canadian dollar was up 1.58 cents at 100.12 cents US after the Bank of Canada signalled it may raise rates very soon — a move that would likely increase international demand for Canadian bonds and dollars. Earlier, the loonie had gained as much as 1.76 cents to 100.30 cents US.

The central bank projected that Canada's economy will grow a faster-than-expected 3.7 per cent this year, and inflation will also move higher. In its last forecast in January, the bank said the economy would grow 2.9 per cent in 2010.

Because of the strong economic outlook, the Bank of Canada said it was withdrawing its conditional commitment to keep the key lending rate at its current record low of 0.25 per cent until the end of June. That sets the stage

100.12

The Canadian dollar closed at 100.12 cents US yesterday after a gain of 1.58 cents US.

for a quarter-point or even a half-point hike on June 1.

The Canadian dollar will remain strong as long as investors expect the bank to raise rates and tighten the money supply. But a high loonie could, in turn, force the bank to cut rates again later in the year, said Danielle Park of Venable Park Investment Counsel in Barrie, Ont.

"They started to hike (rates) in '02 and then had to backtrack because they realized the economy was not recovering as strongly as they'd hoped," Park said.

"And the spiking dollar really plays into that ... they raise rates, that pushes up the currency, and that puts a drag on the expansion," since a strong dollar hurts

manufacturers and other businesses that sell their products south of the border, she added.

The Toronto stock market closed up 10.56 points at 12,113.53, giving up some of its earlier gains amid a weak gold sector.

The gold sector fell 1.6 per cent even as the June bullion contract added \$3.40 to \$1,139.20 US an ounce. Barrick Gold Corp. lost 73 cents to \$39.03.

The Toronto energy sector was the biggest gainer yesterday, adding 1.16 per cent as the June crude contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange crept up 72 cents to \$83.85 US a barrel.

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IMF sees global bank losses at \$2.28 trillion, down \$533B

MONEY The world's banks could be spared billions in losses thanks to a global economy that is recovering from the financial meltdown more quickly than initially expected.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting that global bank losses from the financial crisis will total \$2.28 trillion US, a drop of \$533 billion from an estimate made last October.

The IMF said yesterday that its forecast for losses just for U.S. banks had dropped to \$885 billion, down from an estimate of \$1.03 trillion made in October.

The international lending agency attributes the improvements in part to a

faster-than-expected rebound in the global economy. But the IMF warns that risks still remain, especially in the area of government debt. A debt crisis in

Greece is still roiling markets and raising concerns about huge debt burdens in other countries including the United States.

"Risks to global financial stability have eased as the economic recovery has gained steam," the IMF said in a new report.

The document is being issued in advance of the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank and finance officials from the Group of 20 major industrial and developing nations.

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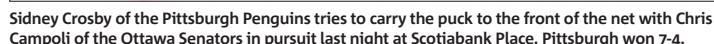
Miami Calling all tanning butlers



Tony Bertram, right, walks past a sign advertising a casting call for a job opening for a tanning butler at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Miami Beach, Fla. yesterday. Bertram inquired about the job, but did not apply. The job pays \$20 per hour and involves offering complimentary sun care products to guests at the pool and beach. The job is three days a week, four hours each day during peak tanning times of 11-3 p.m.

7

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

www.comwave.ca

David Legwand scored the go-ahead goal and had two assists, and the Nashville Predators beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-1 last night for the franchise's first 2-1 lead ever in an opening-round series. The Predators have never won more than two games in any of their first four playoff appearances. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Goalie choice faces Habs

It's decision time for Montreal Canadiens coach Jacques Martin — should he start Jaroslav Halak or Carey Price in goal against the Washington Capitals?

The debate is raging on radio call-in shows, Internet sites and no doubt on shop floors and around office water coolers all over Montreal.

But, as usual, Martin refuses to name his starting goalie until the day of the game, in this case, the perhaps pivotal Game 4 of the team's NHL Eastern Conference series at the Bell Centre tonight. The Capitals lead the best-of-seven series 2-1.

"I'm confident we have two goaltenders who can do the job so, for me, it's not a big decision," he said yesterday.

Halak took over the No. 1 goaltender's role in the final two months of the regular season and looked to have erased any doubts about his status with a 45-save effort in Montreal's series opening 3-2 overtime win in Washington.

He looked good again as



Montreal Canadiens goaltender Jaroslav Halak is replaced by Carey Price Monday night after giving up three goals.

the Canadiens jumped to a 4-1 lead late in the second period of Game 2, but then the roof fell in as the Capitals battled back for a 6-5 overtime win.

From the end of the second period in Game 2 to the 8:33 mark of the second period in Game 3, Halak let in eight goals on 30 shots, before he was re-

placed with Price.

The six-foot-three Price has a clear size advantage over the five-foot-11 Halak and feels that may be important against a big Washington team that likes to crowd the net.

"I'm a pretty big boy. I can handle myself and that could be an advantage for us," he said. "If they're still coming to the net and we don't retaliate, we could draw penalties."

Halak supporters say the 24-year-old from Bratislava should start because he is the goaltender that got Montreal into the playoffs and he shouldn't be punished for a bad stretch against Washington's high-powered attack.

His detractors say he appears to be rattled, although he laughed at a reference to Caps star Alex Ovechkin's statement that his arm was shaking after he let in the goal in Game 2 that started Washington's comeback.

"I wasn't nervous," Halak said. "I don't know how he got that, that I was nervous."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Garnett-less Celtics roll over Heat, push lead to 2-0

(Boston leads series 2-0)

Heat 77 Celtics 106



NBA The Boston Celtics didn't miss Kevin Garnett at all, not the way Glen Davis filled in to lead them to a 106-77 victory over the Miami Heat last night and a 2-0 lead in their playoff series.

With Garnett serving a one-game suspension for elbowing Quentin Richardson in Game 1, Davis started and had 23 points and eight rebounds, going aggressively to the basket to grab missed shots and draw fouls.

The Heat took a 29-25 lead on a dunk by Jermaine O'Neal. But the Celtics used a 44-8 surge over the next 16 minutes to go ahead 69-37, capped by one of Ray Allen's five three-pointers in the third quarter. Allen led the Celtics with 25 points, while Dwyane Wade scored 29 for the Heat.

Game 3 is Friday night in Miami.

Temperatures stayed under control throughout the game, just three days after a skirmish with 40 seconds left in Boston's 85-76 victory led to Garnett's suspension without pay and Richardson's \$25,000 US fine. Garnett was hovering over teammate Paul Pierce, who had fallen near the Miami bench after hurting his shoulder.

Garnett held off Richardson as he came up from behind. They then exchanged words before the elbow hit the Heat forward in the face.

Garnett wasn't allowed in TD Garden, but made a pre-recorded appearance on the scoreboard above midcourt during a timeout after the Celtics scored 19 straight points to take a 44-29 lead with 2:56 left in the first half.

He encouraged the fans and when the scoreboard followed with a "Let's Get Loud" message, they raised their voices.

Richardson was booed almost every time he touched the ball.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro
metronews.ca

Manitoba school to get new mining technology

A consortium of industry and public-sector partners will soon unveil plans for a state-of-the-art mining academy in Flin Flon, Man.. Sources say the Northern Manitoba Mining Academy may include the latest technology in automated underground mining equipment simulators previously unavailable in the province. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

Workology

Grad time tied to resources

A new study from the U.S.-based National Bureau of Economic Research suggests that the increase in the length of time needed to complete a baccalaureate degree in recent decades is concentrated among students who enrol at less competitive 4-year institutions and at community colleges. Results suggest that declines in collegiate resources in the less-selective public sector increased degree-completion time. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

To earn now or learn for later?

JON TATTRE
for Metro Halifax

The last few years have seen a decline in employment among young Canadians almost matched by a rise in enrolment in graduate school, according to Statistics Canada figures.

The number of grad students rose by five percentage points in the 2007/2008 academic year and the employment rate among Canadians aged 15 to 24 declined by 8.7 percentage points between 2008 and 2009.

David Ablett, a financial planner with Investors Group in Winnipeg, says

people should weigh the investment required for upgrading education against the likely benefits.

"Grad school can offer career opportunity, personal growth, fulfillment and achievement. It can also leave you in considerable debt," says Ablett. "When weighing the options, it's best to understand the ways you'll finance your decision."

He cites Stats Can figures for 2005 saying the average income for a person with a bachelors degree was \$58,767. For a grad degree, that rose 18 per cent to \$69,230. Over a 30-year working period, that would equal an earnings boost of

about \$313,890. An MBA costs about \$50,000 on average and an EMBA (executive MBA) about \$90,000. If a student had to borrow the entire cost, a debt of \$50,000 would take 15 years of \$400-a-month payments at five per cent interest to clear.

Further education also takes you out of the workforce for a number of years, costing several years' salary.

"Investing in education can be lucrative, but it is a big financial commitment and the decision needs to be weighed along with other life goals like owning a home, providing for a family and your retirement," Ablett says.

Would-be students in the workforce have advantages, he adds. They might have enough in savings to pay for all or part of their educational upgrade, including money drawn from RRSPs via tax-free withdrawals with the life-long learning program.

"You can take out up to \$20,000 over a four-year period. Once you've finished your course of study, you've got ten years to make the repayments to your plan," he says.

Workers can also take advantage of the tax-free savings account introduced a couple of years ago to sock away savings for future studies.



University graduates have a tough decision whether to get a job and earn income or aim for a post-grad program.

Tribunals cause for employers concern

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

Canadian employers have historically taken an ignorant view of human rights tribunals and their often extraordinary decisions. But that may be quickly changing. Because of sweeping changes to human rights legislation and left-leaning adjudicators directed to interpret remedial legislation, such as human rights laws, in a broad and inclusive manner, employers should be very concerned. Here are some of the reasons why.

Broadcasting cases: when Jessica Maciel was fired from a hair salon after disclosing she was pregnant, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal found her termination was due to her pregnancy. She was awarded \$35,000 for lost wages, benefits and "punitive" damages.

The decision, while not novel, should give employers pause for two reasons. First, the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, a government-sponsored program that argues cases of discrimination on behalf of employees, sent out a mass press release broad-



Jessica Maciel and her son, 10-month-old Anthony.

casting the decision. Employers rarely had to concern themselves with negative public scrutiny arising from seeing their names widely broadcast on the wrong side of a press release — until now.

Second, the broad panoply of potential damage awards for human rights violations considerably increases the scope and unpredictability of human rights litigation before provincial tribunals. Despite having worked for only one day, Maciel was awarded damages with little or no relationship to her actual losses. It is no wonder so many employees choose to claim damages before provincial tribunals instead taking their chances in the courts.

Cost awards: In civil court cases, the losing party pays a component of the winner's legal costs and cases cannot be summarily

withdrawn without paying costs to the other side. Both rules deter frivolous or vexatious lawsuits from proceeding. But this is not so in the human rights regime, where employers must generally pay their own legal costs, no matter what the outcome. Employers are forced to settle many unmeritorious cases simply to avoid escalating legal fees.

Further, in Ontario, the aforementioned Legal Support Centre often advances cases on behalf of employees, without charging them a dime. Those claimants who can afford lawyers can opt to fire them and then qualify for free representation from the Centre.

Assumed jurisdiction: The most ridiculous aspect of Canadian human rights laws is that the tribunals often assume their jurisdiction to hear quasi-discriminatory matters before a hearing to determine whether that jurisdiction even exists.

In B.C., the Tribunal is currently hearing the case of Lorna Pardy, a lesbian who accused a comedian of discriminating against her at a nightclub, before a hearing takes place establishing the Tribunal's jurisdiction. It appears the Tribunal has it backwards.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Metro Drive

Fresh air on wheels

A Chinese car is turning the laws of physics over its head. The Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. has come up with the Ye Zi concept that runs on renewable energy and somehow emits oxygen, making it the world's first "carbon negative" car. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONWS.CA

Compact Versa shows class

Nissan's entry-level car generous in quality

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

When it came to entry-level cars, there used to be only a couple that were really worth the money.

The rest were playing off either their low price or buyers' ignorance about just how nice a car you can get for very little money.

In 2010, that ratio has virtually flipped, with an increasing number of hits and much fewer misses. And it seems like nearly every week there's some other company trying to break in.

Nissan has generally been on the "inside" with its small offerings, but this is especially true with its entry-level Versa.

Although it hasn't changed much in the three years since its launch, it remains an impressive lesson in packaging.

Somehow, Nissan managed to carve out a relatively grand interior from a modestly sized body. The design is hit-or-miss, though. The five-door hatch is pert, if not pretty, but the four-door sedan is awkward and best forgotten.

While there is a four-



2010 Nissan Versa

Type: Compact sedan/hatchback
Price: from \$14,918
Engine: 1.6L/1.8L
Fuel Economy: 7.9/6.3L/100km (city/hwy)

Highlights

- Modern interiors
- Generous leg room for back-seat passengers
- Affordable price
- Capable handling

controls and legible instruments. You always feel perched in the driver's seat, the better to maximize interior space.

Rear-seat passengers aren't ignored either, with generous leg room. Cargo space is limited, but there's room for groceries or other sundries.

Get out on the road, and the little Nissan's manners are comfortable, but not especially sporty. It doesn't flop like a fish, but it's no corner carver.

Acceleration is acceptable, and good gearing means it doesn't inspire panic during passing manoeuvres. The brakes are capable but wouldn't be up for track work...

The best part is that Versa starts at a very reasonable \$14,198 although if you bring straight cash, you can get into a no-option sedan for four figures.

Nissan's biggest problem?

That the Versa is so good at its job that the current one-size-up Sentra still can't deliver a solid reason why anyone should spend the extra money.

Learning how to EcoDrive

TIPS By changing your driving habits, even a little, you could save hundreds of dollars a year in fuel and help reduce your carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. The way to do this is to start EcoDriving, a safe way of driving that produces the lowest fuel consumption from every vehicle, regardless of vehicle size and age. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Accelerate gently: Every time you put your foot on the gas pedal, you feed fuel to your engine — the harder you apply the gas, the more fuel your engine uses and the more emissions your car produces;

- Maintain a steady speed and stick to the speed limit: It's tempting to speed on the highway but by reducing your speed from 120 km/hour to 100 km/hour you can lower your fuel consumption by about 20 per cent;

- Anticipate traffic flow: Try to gauge the flow of traffic and keep a buffer zone between you and the drivers in front of you and drive at a consistent speed as speed fluctuations use more fuel;

- Coast to decelerate: Coasting to a stop is like getting a free ride. When you notice that traffic ahead is slowing or stopped, remove your foot from the accelerator as soon as possible and coast to a stop.

NEWS CANADA

door door-crasher special with a less powerful 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine, starting with the hatchback improves things considerably.

Using a 122-hp 1.8-litre engine, the Versa is not a rocket, but using the six-speed manual transmission means it's easy to control.

The optional continuously variable transmission (CVT) isn't horrible if you can't or won't drive a stick. Fuel mileage is good given its competition at 7.9/6.3 L/100 km (city/hwy), so you'll stretch out your dollar between fill-ups.

Get behind the wheel, and you're presented with a simple, modern cabin with easy-to-reach con-



Inside, the Nissan Versa boasts a simple, modern cabin with easy-to-reach controls and legible instruments.

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J.D. Power has launched a new data platform, the Auto Intelligence Monitor, which "listens" to unprompted consumer conversations in social media and allows automakers to assess new-vehicle launches, brand images and marketing strategies in new ways. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Head-scratchers and showstoppers

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

The auto show "season" is more or less over. It starts every fall, in either Paris or Frankfurt, and winds up in April in New York.

In the intervening months we see major auto shows in places like Tokyo, Shanghai, Detroit, Montreal, Chicago, Toronto, Geneva, Vancouver, and this year even Flin Flon — though that was probably an accident and not likely to be repeated.

So let's take stock of some of the finer and/or more interesting debuts we saw this season, because they could represent significant trends moving forward, and it's never a bad idea to contemplate bright, shiny objects.

Personal Transport Re-Think

Of the "envelope pushers" concepts brought to light this year, my faves were the Volkswagen L1 and Nissan Land Glider. Both position the passenger directly behind the driver, like on a motorcycle. The L1 is so named because its diesel-electric powertrain only needs 1 L of fuel to travel 100 kms. It looks like a big cigar, or worse.

The Nissan Glider is an EV, but its most cunning attribute is that it can lean like a motorcycle (up to 17 degrees), which should make it a blast (or at least interesting) to drive.

Also of note in this category is the Honda 3R-C Concept, a fully enclosed single-seat, three-wheeled device running on battery power. It looks aggressively high-tech, I'm guessing, so maybe you don't feel so vulnerable in your smallness.

Future High performance

This is a really exciting category, as automakers are realizing that electric power can simultaneously boost power and lower



The auto show season gave us the envelope-pushing Nissan Land Glider, left, and the VW L1.



emissions. When you make stunning e-rides like the Audi e-tron concepts, our conversion to electric propulsion will be done with little duress.

One of the genuine surprises at the recent Geneva show was another car in this vein — the Porsche 918 Spyder. This concept combines the 500-hp V8 from the RS prototype races with two electric motors, for an

additional 218 horses. It can go 198 mph and get 78 mpg if you baby it.

Significant high volume

The 2012 Focus compact represents Ford's first truly global platform — versions will be literally made and sold in every corner of the planet. A slick wagon/minivan version called C-Max is particularly compelling. Aided by the equally new

Fiesta, it should re-establish Ford as a small-vehicle powerhouse.

The new Buick Regal is equally global; it's currently produced in China where it's selling like hot cakes, and will soon be built in Canada.

It's based on platform that also underpins Open Insignia, Buick LaCrosse, and the upcoming Cadillac XTS. The Regal GS concept

unveiled in Detroit, with all-wheel drive and a 255-hp 2.0-litre turbo, tells us that Buick is (finally) serious about attracting younger buyers.

Significant head-scratchers

At Detroit, sitting by itself, with no display material or fanfare was a Lancia Delta fitted with a Chrysler grille. Lancia is one of the brands owned by Chrysler's parent company, Fiat. Not only did it seem odd, but also no one at Chrysler seemed interested in conveying why it was there.

Equally upsetting was the Aston Martin Cygnet — a very small and cheap Toyota iQ dressed in Aston Martin finery.

The Cygnet would only be sold to current Aston Martin owners, presumably for them to drive on city errands and such, when piloting their regular Astons might be deemed overkill. Speaking of death, this column is done!

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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The Chevrolet Camaro was awarded the World Car Design of the Year title at the recently concluded New York International Auto Show. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



The 2004/07 Mazda 6 lineup changed people's perception of how exciting a Japanese family sedan could be.

Maximum Zoom Zoom

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada



MODEL: 2004 to 2007 Mazda 6
VEHICLE TYPE: Sedan or Wagon
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: \$6,500 to \$17,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION:

Capitalizing on a unique styling language, celebrated driving dynamics and a new "Zoom-Zoom" product ideology, the 2004 Mazda 6 hit the scene and quickly began changing the perception of how exciting a Japanese family sedan

could be.

Shopped mainly for its fun-to-drive character, upscale looks and refined, modern interior, the 6 is a popular choice for driving enthusiasts after a sensible used family sedan.

Shoppers can look for a 6 with either a 2.3 litre, 160-

horsepower four-cylinder engine or a 3-litre, 220 horsepower V6.

Transmission choices for either engine included a five-speed manual or an automatic with between four and six gears — depending on the year in question. Unlike most competitors, the 6 offered a stick-shift, even with its larger engine.

Features included ABS brakes, power steering, power accessories and a tilting, telescopic steering wheel — depending on the model. Heated leather seating, side airbags, fog-lamps, heated mirrors, a CD changer and large alloy wheels could be fitted, too.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: No surprises here. Owners tended to praise the 6's styling, sporty handling manners, upbeat cabin and fuel mileage with the four-cylinder engine.

Mazda 6 wagon owners also like the lifestyle appeal of their machines when it comes to family trips or outdoor sports.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Complaints tend to centre around the 6's smaller-than-average cabin and a large turning radius.

Some owners of four-cylinder models wish for more power, and some owners of V6-powered models wish for better mileage.

COMMON ISSUES: Pay extra attention to the automatic transmission on any 6 you're considering that's equipped with one. Any shuddering, hard shifting, slipping or other questionable sensations from the gearbox need to be identified and addressed before agreeing to purchase.

Owner reports are somewhat inconclusive and sporadic, but any of the above may be prelude to expensive transmission component troubles.

Note that refilling the Mazda 6's six-speed automatic gearbox with improper fluid could cause damage. Stick with a manual-transmission model where possible, and if in doubt, take the used 6 you're considering to a local Mazda dealership for a pre-purchase inspection to make sure everything is working properly and in place.

THE VERDICT: Stick with a manual transmission in your used 6 where possible, and get ready to join a community of happy owners with a sporty and stylish family ride.

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Travel

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA



Set on a 100 acre lot, this archeological experiment is full of lush landscapes.

Stepping back in time

Denmark village gives a taste of Iron Age

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

It sounds like a vacation designed by kids — playing outside in the sun, with random farmyard animals to torment, swimming in lakes, sleeping under the stars and absolutely no baths.

For a week.

Which is weird because this is the Iron Age Village at Lejre, in Denmark — an experimental archaeology centre set in 100 breathtakingly beautiful acres.

It's basically the Stone Age, Iron Age, or Viking era here and you're thrown into it with a pretty much sink or swim attitude.

Lejre is a living museum and for a week you are expected to wear the clothes, do the work and live the lifestyle of our 2000-year-old ancestors — often to the bemusement of other visiting Danish tourists.

But don't get bent out of shape, failing is part of the fun.

And, after the initial culture shock, the whole experience makes your modern family entertainment options seem impossibly tame in comparison.

You will share your time with about 25 others as you walk on bare earth, sleep on sheepskins and bathe in the lake.

Your toilet?

It will be a hole in the



You will sleep on sheepskin rugs and under the open skies.

ground — try not to make a mess.

You will work four or five hours a day forging iron, weaving rope, grinding flour, fetching water — whatever needs doing to make the village run you will be doing it.

Hard labour may not seem like much fun but as you lose your self in the era you will begin to love that too.

Because this is not just

another whacky camping trip but both a valuable experiment and a real conduit to another era — one with no TV, no media, and no deadlines other than sunrise and sunset.

And its amazing how connected you soon feel to our ancestors and how much smarter they suddenly seem to be as you struggle. You'll enjoy it so much you'll never want to return to the 20th century.

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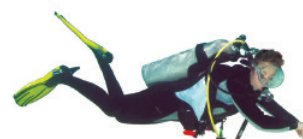
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The treasures of Egypt's boy pharaoh are returning to Seattle. An exhibit of artifacts from King Tutankhamun's tomb opens at the Pacific Science Center in 2012, more than 30 years after the boy king first captivated Seattle. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



4 Must see islands

- 1 Grinda:** The boat trip here takes about two hours. There are beaches and rocks to swim from, a hostel, good restaurant and lovely nature to explore. Good fishing.
- 2 Finnhamn:** There are forests with great walks and you can find your own cliff to sunbathe on watching the sailboats cruise past.
- 3 Sandhamn:** Here's where sailors congregate at the

Royal Swedish Yacht Club and there's a lot of partying in the summer. Enjoy the village and then walk through the forest to the glorious beach.

4 Huvudskär: Ferry from island Dalarö from Midsummer to August. Ancient fishing settlement, raided by Russians in the early 18th century, old lighthouse, calm and stunning beauty. It includes almost 200 islands and a youth hostel.



Summer swimming in Sweden can reach 20 C.

Island hopping around Sweden

See Stockholm's gems by boat

JESSICA CARLSON
Metro World News



Stockholm is built on 14 islands and has a vast archipelago, easily accessible and with a broad range of activities.

You can cruise it in style, and splurge on seafood on-board or at top end restaurants on islands Oaxen and Grinda. You can island-hop budget style on the white boats that crisscross the 24,000 islands — from Landsort in the south to Örskrär in the north and Svenska Högarna in the east — or experience the beauty and serenity of Stockholm's archipelago paddling in a kayak. The unique Swedish law Allemansrätten — the Right of Public Access — gives

everyone wide rights to roam and camp even on privately owned land.

Day-trips to islands Finnhamn or Grinda are perfect for swimming (and jumping from the cliffs), fishing and lovely walks. There are well-served youth hostels on these and many other islands. Advanced bookings are advised especially around Midsummer in late June — a holiday when every Stockholm who can will go to the archipelago.

The water gets warm enough for a dip reaching temperatures around 18-20 C in July and August, which is swimmable at least for Swedes.

The islands are everything from tiny rocks to ones with forests, sandy beaches.



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Bond faces cash problem

The next James Bond sequel, tentatively titled Bond 23, has been put on hold due to MGM's financial troubles, according to Variety. Producers say the next Daniel Craig 007 instalment is facing a foe as nasty as Dr. No or Scaramanga: Cash woes. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

19

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

**MTV host**

Park and Recreation's Aziz Ansari will host the 2010 MTV Movie Awards. "I'm so happy Ronnie from Jersey Shore was unavailable and this exciting opportunity was able to come my way," Ansari said. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Oceans come to life

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Four years in the making with an unprecedented scale of production, Disney's latest nature feature Oceans is an extraordinary technical achievement.

Audiences are treated to remarkable images of undersea life that have never been seen before because the technology and resources to capture the footage didn't exist.

When the movie opens on Earth Day, cinema screens will be filled with stunning high-definition images of blue whales, dolphins, sharks, and other oceanic favourites in a scope that will demand jaws to drop.

It's a cinematic experi-

ence that has never quite been delivered before, just ask Rob Stewart a long-time Canadian underwater photographer and director of the Oscar-nominated documentary Sharkwater.

"I honestly felt a little divided between jealousy and excitement about what was achieved," Stewart told Metro. "They lived our (dream): To be able to spend as much time underwater as you want with the best camera technology in every ocean on the planet to deliver the majesty of this world to the public in a new way."

Stewart was able to spend time on the set of Oceans and admits to being blown away by the scale of the production

that co-directors Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud (Winged Migration) had assembled. Stewart describes the filming process as being "radically different" from anything he'd seen before.

"The way I made a movie was with one camera, two assistants and me. They had between 20 and 30 people on set with joystick cameras, remote control vehicles, and robots with cameras built into them. They basically took the best of the technology from the surface and make it available underwater," revealed the director.

"It was a totally different way of shooting and that's why they got these images that are perfect, crisp, and beautiful."

Oceans might expand the possibilities of what can be done in this medium in the future, but it's not simply a technical exercise. The movie also sends a strong message about the importance of conservation, featuring some sobering satellite images of pollution flooding into the oceans.

"The satellite images show pollution run off from agriculture, fertilizers, and nitrates have caused dead zones in the oceans. These are areas with no life whatsoever. There are over 400 dead zones in the oceans including one that takes up most of the Gulf of Mexico," explained Stewart.

"That's why the movie Oceans is so important. To the general public the oceans are out of sight and



Oceans is an extraordinary technical achievement for Disney.

out of mind. They don't know that 90 per cent of life on Earth lives in the oceans or that oceans give us 70 per cent of the oxygen in the air that we breathe.

"So, to bring people the majesty of the life underwater is going to give them an appreciation for these animals and make them care about the fact that they are being destroyed."

It's a strong and impor-

tant message that will hopefully raise awareness for such environmental concerns.

Audiences who see the film during the first week of release will actually help the cause as a portion of the proceeds will be donated to ocean conservation. Just think, you can actually help the environment from the comfort of an air conditioned movie theater.

Alex O'Loughlin has no need for his own back-up plan

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Alex O'Loughlin has become a regular presence on TV screens with work on The Shield, Moonlight and Three Rivers — and he just finished filming the pilot for a remake of Hawaii 5-0.

But the hardworking Australian actor is no stranger to movie screens either. In his latest, the romantic comedy The Back-

Up Plan, he goes toe-to-toe with none other than Jennifer Lopez. O'Loughlin sat down with Metro to talk about working with J.Lo, film versus television and his undying love for vampires.

Q What was it like going up against J.Lo?

A It was fantastic. It's funny when you word it like that, going up against her. It's like, yeah I guess I sort of was in a

way. But it never felt like that. She's a pro, she's completely approachable. I mean, we met and became buds before we did the thing, so by the time it was first day on set, cameras rolling, we were like old mates, which is great.

Q Do you have a preference between playing heroes and villains?

A I really like playing villains. It feels to me like — and this isn't to

say that I've ever done anything clever or talented in my career yet — but I feel like when I'm playing a villain, I can get away with a lot more. You go like, "Hey, listen, what if this guy had a tattoo on his face?" And the director's like, "Yeah! That's f—ing evil!" But as the hero, you're like, "Hey, can we...?" "No! You're the hero. Just look and smile." And that's a ridiculous sort of stereotypical response, but I just feel freer when

Q I'm a villain. How about a preference between working in film and television?

A Well, film. I don't know who would prefer television over film. The only good thing about TV is it's a steady paycheck. That's not true ... but look at me, dude. I just finished a pilot. I'm beat. You do 15, 16-hour days every day. You've got to churn the work out.



The Back-Up Plan opens Friday

Alex O'Loughlin and Jennifer Lopez cozy up in The Back-Up Plan opening Friday.



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Look who's coming home to Genoa City! EW.com has learned that David Hasselhoff will briefly reprise his role as Dr. William "Snapper" Foster, Jr. on *The Young and the Restless*. **EW.COM**

Doctor David in the house!

Rascal loses label

Rascal Flatts is moving ahead with a new album despite the dissolution of its record label last week.

The trio said during rehearsals for the Academy of Country Music Awards, presented Sunday, they were surprised by Disney's move to close Nashville, Tenn.-based Lyric Street Records — the only label they've known. But a single is still due in June and an album will be out in September.

"It will be out on somewhere," singer Gary LeVox said. "We're still moving full steam ahead and we're just pumped about the new stuff that we're cutting. It's just a sad deal. That was our family for 12 years. It just kind of blindsided us. It was just kind of out of the blue. It's still a little shocking."

The Walt Disney Co. kept a few employees to help Rascal Flatts with the untitled album of all new material, and the group will remain under the company's umbrella, though Disney has not made any public announcement.

"We're still moving full steam ahead and we're just pumped about the new stuff that we're cutting. It's just a sad deal. That was our family for 12 years."

Singer Gary LeVox

Some of the label's acts were dropped as well.

"We've still got the same radio promo team in place and they're still working our singles, so you know it's just business as usual for us," bassist Jay DeMarcus said.



(Left to right) Musicians Gary LeVox, Joe Don Rooney, and Jay DeMarcus of the band Rascal Flatts perform onstage during the 45th annual Academy of Country Music Awards rehearsals on April 16, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Disney-owned record label that represents the band, Lyric Street Records, will be closing up shop.

cal Flatts is one of country music's top acts, selling more than 20 million albums over the last decade. The group just wrapped up a tour and will start another on June 25 in Raleigh, N.C. The tour will feature 26 shows, with stops including Hartford, Conn.; Columbus, Ohio; Washington; and Syracuse, N.Y. It will end in Boston on Sept.

19. The band took a different approach with the new album. Because of a long and dreary winter, they fled Tennessee and recorded tracks in Santa Barbara, Calif., for the first time. They're finishing the overdubbing in Nashville, but can hear a difference in their sound due to the trip out West.

19.

The band took a different approach with the new album. Because of a long and dreary winter, they fled Tennessee and recorded tracks in Santa Barbara, Calif., for the first time. They're finishing the overdubbing in Nashville, but can hear a difference in their sound due to the trip out West.

"It relaxed us, you know what I mean," guitarist Joe Don Rooney said. "We didn't have the hustle and bustle of going back home from the studio and being in Nashville in the crazy traffic."

"That kind of intense focus shows in those tracks that were recorded out there," adds DeMarcus.

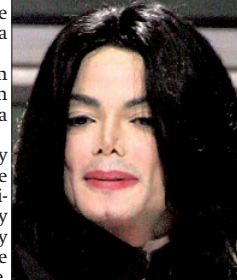
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cirque in Neverland

LIVE SHOW First the Beatles and Elvis, now Michael Jackson.

The acrobatic troupe Cirque du Soleil announced Tuesday that it will put on a live touring show featuring the songs of the King of Pop starting late next year.

That will be followed by a permanent production in Las Vegas in 2012 at a property owned by MGM Mirage Inc. The casino company did not say which venue will host the show. A Michael Jackson nightclub in Las Vegas will also open with the show.



A Michael Jackson

Cirque and Jackson's estate will each own 50 percent of the project and share equally in the cost of putting it on. The estate will also receive royalties from the use of Jackson's music and other assets.

"Having attended Cirque du Soleil performances with Michael, I know he was a huge fan," John Branca, the co-executor of the estate, said in a statement. "We are excited to be

partners with Cirque du Soleil to give Michael's fans a truly unique way to hear, see and feel Michael's music."

Jackson's mother, Katherine, added in a statement, "Our family is thrilled that Cirque du Soleil will pay tribute to my son in such an important way."

Jackson died at age 50 last June on the cusp of a series of comeback concerts after overdosing on propofol and other sedatives. His personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exhibition

Musical history

- Michael Jackson's fedora, Ella Fitzgerald's dress and Louis Armstrong's trumpet are together in a Washington exhibit celebrating the famed Apollo Theater, where many musical careers were launched.
- It opens Friday at the National Museum of American History.
- The late King of Pop won the theatre's Amateur Night as a youngster in 1967 with the Jackson Five.
- Fitzgerald debuted on Amateur Night at age 17.

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Extortion charge in Stamos case

PEOPLE Federal prosecutors in Michigan's Upper Peninsula have filed a fresh criminal charge against two people accused of trying to extort money from actor John Stamos.

Scott Sippola and Allison Coss are charged with using interstate commerce to make the threat. It was filed Monday as a "felony information," which means a guilty plea is likely. Sippola and Coss are accused of threatening to sell photos of Stamos unless he paid them \$680,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Idol is giving back

TV Simon Fuller, the entertainment magnate behind American Idol and its charity event airing tonight, is trumpeting a starry lineup that includes Elton John, Alicia Keys and Carrie Underwood.

But he played it coy when asked about the Idol Gives Back role of two other prominent people.

Bill and Melinda Gates, supporters of the fundraiser since it launched in 2007, "have done something very special, quite incredible, this year," Fuller

said. Pressed for details, he would only advise that you must watch the broadcast.

Pumping up viewership — and donations — is Fuller's goal. Idol Gives Back, which has raised more than \$140 million US, this year will benefit Children's Health Fund, Feed America, Malaria No More, Save the Children's U.S. programs and the United Nations Foundation.

The fundraiser is airing as part of the weekly American Idol elimination episode (8-10 p.m. on CTV),

Canadian Idol

- Canadians can donate online by visiting idolaid.com or by phone at 1-877-IDOL-AID (1-877-436-5243)

rather than a stand-alone broadcast. Seven contestants remain in the singing contest. Others performing for Idol Gives Back are the Black Eyed Peas, Annie Lennox, Jeff Beck, Joss Stone and Mary J. Blige.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Octomom opens up on Oprah's show

CELEBRITY Octuplets mother Nadya Suleman says being known as "Octomom" makes her feel like a "carnival attraction."

Appearing on The Oprah Winfrey Show Tuesday, the mother of 14 children told Winfrey that she will never do a reality television show and that "a parent must provide for their kids, not the other way around."

Last June, Suleman's

lawyer said she had signed a deal to star in a reality TV series to be filmed by a Netherlands-based production company.

Suleman gave birth to six boys and two girls in January 2009. The oldest of her six other children is eight.

The Southern California woman also told Winfrey via satellite that she feels "tremendous guilt" when she holds one or two of her children and can't be there for the others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Troubling times for King?

During a presentation to advertisers last week in New York City, CNN trotted out many of its big names: Anderson Cooper, John King, Sanjay Gupta, Candy Crowley, Nancy Grace and Wolf Blitzer, among them.

Larry King, host of what is still one of the network's top-rated shows, appeared only in a film clip that flashed by for a second or two.

These are troubling times for Larry King Live as it approaches its 25th anniversary in June. The show's viewership for the first three months of the year dropped 44 per cent from 2009, and it usually trails Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity and MSNBC's Rachel Maddow in the time slot.

Once a pioneer, King now fights for relevancy.

There was a time when such a thought would be heresy.

"In the early days of the 1980s and 1990s, that was the place to go to get interviewed," television historian Tim Brooks said. "Any politician, including presidential candidates, had to

"In the early days of the 1980s and 1990s, that was the place to go to get interviewed."

Historian Tim Brooks

be on his show. That brought a lot of respect to CNN, and to cable as well."

King moderated a memorable 1993 debate between Ross Perot and Vice-President Al Gore. He even tried to mediate peace in the Middle East, bringing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, King Hussein of Jordan and Israel's Yitzhak Rabin together on a show. His influence was equally big with entertainers. A list of bold-faced names who had sat across the table from King would take in practically everyone in the entertainment business.

In those days, Larry King was New Media. Today, entertainers have many options, from visiting hip hosts such as Jon Stewart to maintaining their own Twitter feeds. King was never a challenging interviewer, but now politicians can find downright friendly

ones.

It leaves King with pleasant but meandering chats with Willie Nelson, or the chance to talk to Martina Navratilova about her cancer treatment.

On the day Conan O'Brien agreed to go to TBS, King brought three reporters in to chat about it.

Think about it.

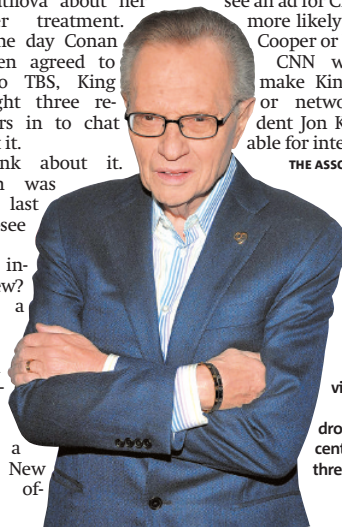
When was the last must-see Larry King interview?

For a network based in Atlanta and with a large New York of-

fice, King usually works out of Los Angeles. His executive producer since 1992, Wendy Walker, works from her home in San Diego, where CNN has built a control room for her. Some who know King suggested that's a disconnected arrangement, and wonder whether he is getting the support he needs in booking and promotion. If you see an ad for CNN, it's far more likely to feature Cooper or Blitzer.

CNN would not make King, Walker or network president Jon Klein available for interviews.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Larry King Live celebrates its 25th anniversary this June, however, viewership of the show dropped 44 per cent for the first three months of this year

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time	2	CFRN	239	318	etalk	Access H.	CS: NY "Battle Scars"	American Idol	The contestants raise money for charity.			CTV News
	3	KHQ	-	370	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Mercy (HDTV) (N)	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order
	4	CBXT	-	307	NHL Hockey	CBC News	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Los Angeles Kings	(HDTV) (Live)				National
	6	KREM	-	372	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)	Old Christine	Accidentally	Criminal Minds "100"		CSI: NY
news	7	CITV	241	347	Law & Order: SVU		Cougar Town	Cougar Town	Mercy (HDTV) (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family	EP Daily
	8	CITV	240	339	ET Canada	Entertainment	Melrose Place	Bones (HDTV) (PA) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		News Hour
	11	OMNI	-	-	King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	Metropia
	13	KXLY	-	371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	The Middle	Modern Family	Modern Family	Cougar Town
sports	18	KAYU	-	373	The Office	Raymond	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	American Idol	The contestants raise money for charity.		News
	22	KSPS	-	374	PBS NewsHour (N)		Educating Spokane (HDTV)		Through a Dog's Eyes (N)	P.O.V. The food industry in America. (N)		
	24	WTVS	-	364	Freshwater Seas		Freshwater Seas		Being Served	Keeping Up	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)
	25	CBCL	502	-	CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National			Doc Zone
family	21	TBN	505	398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two			
	27	CNN	500	500	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)			Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	29	CTV	501	391	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
	30	BNN	504	508	Squeeze Play		Business News	Commodities	Market Call Tonight	Headline	Commodities	Squeeze Play
cable variety	20	TSN	400	400	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre (HDTV) (N)		Off the Record	Mayweather	Boxing		Motoring 2010
	23	net	408	418	Toughman	The Grid	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Oakland Athletics	(HDTV) (Live)				Sportsnet Con.
	47	SPEED	417	406	NASCAR Hall of Fame (N)		Pass Time	Pass Time	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR
	94	SCORE	410	403	Score Now		Score Now	Score Now	Score Now	Score Now	Score Now	Score Now
cable variety	9	EDACC	267	351	Alberta Primetime (Live)		The Listener (DVS)		America's Next Top Model (N)	Law & Order: SVU		Primetime
	14	TV	552	543	iCarly	To Be Indie	That's Weird	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	8 Simple Rules	Survive This	To Be Indie
	17	TREE	553	546	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan
	42	TOON	555	545	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
cable variety	45	FAM	557	541	Han, Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han, Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz
	-	TVA	121	714	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or		En route vers le gala Artis (N)	Dr. House (SC)		TVA nouvelles
	18	CMT	575	583	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South "Flashback"		Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Reba
	25	A&E	615	520	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
cable variety	26	MMM	571	581	mtmto10.ca		Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels
	29	FOOD	603	561	Iron Chef America		Chopped "Rattle & Roll"		Restaurant Makeover	Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Chopped
	31	SHOW	617	522	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		I Me Wed (2007, Romance-Comedy)	Erica Durance.		Secret Diary
	32	DISC	520	505	Deadliest Catch	"Slow Burn"	Mayday "Blown Apart"		Daily Planet	Mayday "Blown Apart"		I Could Do
cable variety	33	SILCE	601	565	End/Leash	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	What Happen?	Real Housewives, Orange	Housewives
	34	W	602	567	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Cupcake Girls	Cupcake Girls
	35	TLC	521	560	Hoarding: Buried Alive		Addicted (HDTV) (N)		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Addicted (HDTV)	Strange Sex
	36	BRAVO	520	523	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar		Law & Order "Expert"		Without a Trace	White Collar
cable variety	38	SPEK	528	584	UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		Best of PRIDE Fighting	Countdown to Aldo vs. Faber		CSI: Crime Scn
	40	AMC	-	-	(6) The Outlaw Josey Wales *** (1976, Western)		Pale Rider *** (1985, Western)	Clint Eastwood, Carrie Snodgrass.				
	40	HIST	522	506	Ice Road Truckers (HDTV) (N)		Dive Detectives (HDTV)		Queen Mother: Her Reign			Re-Inventors
	41	COM	526	547	Just for Laughs		Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park
cable variety	43	SPACE	527	528	Chuck (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gen.
	44	WPCH	524	650	MLB Baseball		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	Law & Order: SVU		Family Guy	Family Guy
	46	OLN	411	457	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Dog Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo
	48	TROP	619	525	Project Runway Canada		Dog Whisperer		Hoarders		Hoarders "Patty, Bill"	
cable variety	50	STAR	621	527	The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ	etalk	Access H.	Extra
	52	HGTV	600	564	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Agent-Agent	Property Shop
	65	TLN	700	800	(6) Il Rosso e Il Negro		George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight		Raymond	Raymond
	52	APTN	269	350	Investigates	Our Home and Native Land	Down2Earth		Mighty River	Canadian Geographic		Venturing Frth
cable variety	93	VISION	261	394	Kingdom		Unscripted (N)	Twist of Faith	Pottergeist: The Legacy		Fires Within ** (1991, Drama)	
	100	MTV	581	566	The Challenge: Fresh Meat 2		The Challenge: Fresh Meat 2		MTV Live	Sex, News-Roll		16 and Pregnant
	101	MM	570	580	VideoFlow				UR11		America's Best Dance Crew	My Date With...
	102	CPAC	512	396	(6:30) Primetime Politics		Revue		Question Period		Prime-Politics	Primetime Politics
cable variety	103	VIVA	526	507	Medium		Cold Case "Wings"		Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy	Missing
	106	RDI	126	730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		24 Heures en 60 minutes	Le Téléjournal
	161	SUPER			Party Down	Head Case	Satisfaction (HDTV)		Satisfaction "Zipless"		Party Down	Head Case

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Just days before Valerie Bertinelli turns 50 Friday, she achieved another personal goal: finishing the Boston Marathon. Bertinelli told People — just after running the 26.2-mile race, her first marathon, in 5:14:37 — “I feel euphoric.” **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Bertinelli hits another milestone

Celebrity Buzz

Ringless Bullock comes out of hiding

LEAVE SANDRA ALONE! Sandra Bullock emerged from hiding again — and her wedding ring was nowhere in sight, people.com reports.

During its Monday night broadcast, Entertainment Tonight showed a photograph of the star taking a hike in Northern California. In the snap reportedly taken last Friday, a somber looking Bullock wears a hat and scarf and little makeup.

Noticeably missing from

her left hand: The vintage platinum band with interlocking diamonds she has worn since wedding to Jesse James nearly five years ago.

Bullock, 45, has only been seen once before in public since her husband's cheating scandal erupted

in early March. (Since Michelle “Bombshell” McGee claimed an 11-month affair with James, four other women have come forward claiming involvement with the motorcycle mogul. James, 41, is said to be seeking treatment at an undisclosed facility.) On

March 31, the Oscar winner — concealed by a floppy green hat and umbrella-bearing assistants — briefly left her Hollywood Hills home to visit the Beverly Hills home of her friend, investor Gabriel Brenner.

How is she doing now? “She is devastated but trying methodical and trying to make the right decision about what to do next,” a Bullock source says in the latest issue of Us Weekly.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kardashian: Mom told me to pose nude

GOOD OLD FASHIONED FAMILY VALUES Kim Kardashian only posed for Playboy because her mother told her to, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The socialite admits she regrets baring all for the publication in December 2007, but was urged to do so by mother Kris Jenner to promote their Keeping Up with the Kardashians TV programme.

“Go for it,” my mother said, “They might never ask you again. Our show isn’t on the air yet. No one knows who you are. Do it and you’ll have these beautiful pictures to look at when you’re my age,” she said.

However, posing in another naked shoot for Harper’s Bazaar, the 29-year-old beauty admits she feels more comfortable this time around.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Elin snaps up pricey real estate

GO ‘HEAD GIRL, SPEND THAT CASH Elin Nordegren’s recent purchase of a \$2 million home in Sweden have some speculating that the salvaging of her marriage to Tiger Woods isn’t going so well, but sources close to the couple insist Nordegren won’t be taking the kids all the way

to Europe.

“No way would Tiger let Elin leave the U.S.A. with his children. You can say whatever you want about Tiger as a husband, but he has always been a great father,” a source tells Popeater. “He knows his marriage is probably over, but he will never give up on those kids. They mean the world to him.”

METRO WORLD NEWS



Gibson’s baby mama playing coy about split

HEY - SHE’S GOT A FIFTEENTH MINUTE TO EXTEND, FOLKS Oksana Grigorieva is being coy about why she and Mel Gibson really split up, but she will say there’s more to it than what’s been reported.

“I can tell you that ... we have split up, suddenly and recently,” Grigorieva said at a press conference in

Moscow. “Unfortunately, I cannot give you the reason. But you will find out everything quite soon.” She also divulged that she’s planning to get the hammer-and-sickle tattoo on her ankle that Gibson suggested removed.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Aniston to sit in director’s seat

IT’S A SAFE BET THERE’S A NO-ANGELINA CASTING POLICY Jennifer Aniston is getting ready to step behind the camera, gearing up to direct her first feature film, according to the Sun. “I have a project in development I’m going to direct,” the former Friends star says, according to the newspaper. “After you get enough movies under

your belt you sit back and go, ‘What’s next?’”

METRO WORLD NEWS



Lohan in big debt trouble

NEXT UP: VISA REHAB

Despite not having made a film in more than a year, Lindsay Lohan has reportedly done nothing to curb her spending, and it’s taking its toll, according to Radar Online.

“Lindsay owes credit cards \$600,000,” a source says. “One card cut her off last week, and it’s only a matter of time before all her other ones cut her off, too.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



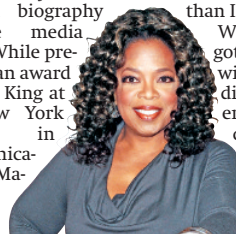
Oprah jokes about bio

IF YOU CAN’T BEAT ‘EM ... Oprah Winfrey has finally addressed the allegations in Kitty Kelley’s new unauthorized biography of the media queen. While presenting an award to Gayle King at the New York Women in Communications Matrix

Awards, the last week “was a rough one” for King because the pal “sometimes cares more about my life than I do.”

Winfrey joked, “Gayle got herself worked up with all my new daddies coming out,” referencing the book’s claim that Vernon Winfrey isn’t her real father.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

DAVID ARCHULETA didn’t expect to be spotted at a gay bar, **JIM CARREY** isn’t a fan of gossip, and **SARAH SILVERMAN** is asking the tough questions.

@DavidArchie Mental note to self: always ask where before you go! Wasn’t my kind of place lol, and I had no clue! I guess you live and learn.

@JimCarrey Watching and reading gossip is like eating somethin’ greasy. Fun at first but afterwards u feel gross. It seems 2 drain your vitality.

@SarahSilverman Why aren’t hair elastics allowed in movies or TV? Must every ponytail be wrapped in hair??



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex-action star fights back

EXCEPT THERE’S NO SCRIPT FOR THIS ONE, STEVE

Stephen Seagal isn’t taking his former assistant’s allegations of sexual harassment and sex trafficking lying down. The former action star plans to counter Kayden Nguyen’s lawsuit with his own suit for breaching their confidentiality agreement, according to Radar Online. Seagal’s lawyer also claims that Nguyen was initially let go because of illegal activities. Nguyen’s suit claims he

treated the young woman as a personal “sex toy,” among other charges.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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C S B C M A D I S T I N C T
C E E C R E A T I V E D E N
O C R S O C I A B L E U R O
U C T M A N A G E M E N T I
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